(b) *InUrban Areas*

In Urban Areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms in other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms for each other.

Heads of Postal Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Areas should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Foreign Exchange spent on Purchase of Equipment for ITI Palghat

1242. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ITI Palghat assembling large exchanges like El0B and OCB-283 and were meeting the demand of DOT;

(b) whether it is a fa£! that the DOT has done away with the practice of 30 per cent demand reserve for the ITI;

(c) if so, the reasons for calling global tender; and

(d) the price difference and total amount of foreign exchange spent for the purchase of these equipments during the last three years'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) (i) Yes, Sir.

ITI, Palghat is manufacturing OCB-283 Exchanges.

ITI, Palghat was manufacturing DTAX equipment of El0B design, production of which has since been phased out.

(ii) ITI has been meeting part requirement of DOT.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

(d) No foreign exchange has been spent by DOT for purchase of these equipments during the last three years.